

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: A. Aldykiewicz Jr. et al.)
Serial No: 10/736,305)
Filed: December 15, 2003)
For: Anticorrosion Separator For)
Wood Deck Fasteners)
Examiner: Y. Horton
Group Art Unit: 3635
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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

In response to the Office Action mailed on September 26, 2006, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application.

Claims 8-10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Weir (US 5,148,644) in view of Thompson (US 6,295,781). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As pointed out in the prior response, the present invention is directed to a method of preventing or minimizing corrosion of metal devices, such as metal joist hangers, used to fasten pretreated wood by preventing contact between the metal device and the pretreated wood. The method places a membrane barrier over the wood surface that would otherwise contact the metal device, wherein the membrane barrier comprises a carrier support layer and a pressure-sensitive waterproofing adhesive layer.

Weir, the primary reference, does not show or describe any metal device (other than nails) and, thus, cannot possibly suggest interposing anything between wood and metal. Since nails are fastened into the wood, there is contact between the wood (whether treated or not treated) and the nail, even if there is something between the nail head and the wood surface.